

manager of the Food Basket Supermarket, the family owned forerunner of Food Circus.

Mrs. Scaduto, a delegate to the 1992 Republican National Convention and alternate delegate at the 1988 convention, has had a long history of activity in Republican politics in New Jersey.

She has been president of the New Jersey Federation of Women since 1991 after serving in a number of roles in the organization, including vice president, corresponding secretary and member of the Board of Governors. Her dedication has allowed her to serve on countless Federation committees and chair numerous events. She is a State committee-woman for Monmouth County and has served on the committees of Kapalko for Congress and Azzolina for Congress. She is a former president and vice president of the Women's Republican Club of Middletown and a current member of Women of the 1990's. Mrs. Scaduto also chaired a number of special events and dinners, including a 1989 luncheon for our former colleague, the late Millicent Fenwick.

Despite the long hours involved in supporting the Republican Party, Mrs. Scaduto has also found time for civic activities. She is a member of the Georgian Court College Advisory Council and the Central Jersey chapter of the March of Dimes. She was presented the Community Service Award by the Middletown Area Chamber of Commerce in 1994 and the Women of Leadership Award by the Monmouth Girl Scouts in 1993, among many other awards. She has been active in Girl Scouts leadership since her days as Brownie troop leader in the 1960's.

With no end to her energy and enthusiasm, she is also the wife of Louis Scaduto, the mother of 4 children and grandmother of 11.

Grace Scaduto is truly and example to us all. Her service to society in all its aspects—family, politics and community—has been inspirational. I thank her for all she has done and wish her well in all that she does in the future.

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF ORPHAN DRUG RESEARCH

#### HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 1995*

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today, along with my distinguished senior colleague from the Ways and Means Committee, ROBERT MATSUI, the Orphan Drug Tax Credit Amendments of 1995.

In 1983, the Congress enacted legislation that granted a tax credit for the clinical testing of drugs used to treat rare diseases with limited commercial potential, commonly referred to as orphan drugs. This legislation, in conjunction with orphan drug market exclusivity, has been successful in encouraging the type of narrow research critical to finding answers to the many questions posed by rare diseases. Currently, there are approximately 600 drugs that have received orphan drug designation and more than 100 of those have been approved for marketing. Because of the orphan drug legislation, we now have drugs to treat such diseases as cystic fibrosis, hepatitis

B, multiple sclerosis, renal cell carcinoma, and pituitary dwarfism.

The bill we are introducing today would make two significant changes to the orphan drug tax credit:

First, it would make the orphan drug tax credit, which expired at the end of last year, permanent. Uncertainty over the future of the tax credit has caused a significant decline in the investment of capital in the biotechnology industry.

Second, this bill would allow companies to carry the tax credit back or forward pursuant to section 39 of the Internal Revenue Code. Most of the companies engaged in research of orphan drugs do not qualify for the tax credit. Under current law, a company can only claim a credit against their current year tax liability. Since most companies involved in orphan drug research are biotechnology firms that are still developing and have yet to market a product, they have no tax liability against which to claim the tax credit. This structural change would allow a developing company, such as a biotechnology firm, to use the tax credit at such time that it had a tax liability.

I am pleased to note that this bill is endorsed by both the Biotechnology Industry Organization, which represents the biotechnology industry, and the National Organization for Rare Disorders, Inc. [NORD], the primary non-profit organization representing patients with rare diseases.

I commend this bill to my colleagues and look forward to its prompt approval by the Congress.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE FEDERAL EM- PLOYEES WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN OKLAHOMA CITY

#### HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 1995*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to honor the dedicated Federal employees who lost their lives in bomb blast at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. We will long remember these civil servants who paid the highest price for their commitment to public service.

One such dedicated public servant killed in the bomb blast was Secret Service agent Alan Whicher. Agent Whicher was a native of Maryland and lived in the town of Rockville, MD, until last October when he was transferred to Oklahoma City. While he was in Washington, Alan Whicher was assigned to protect the President. The transfer to America's heartland was viewed as a safer and less hectic assignment.

Alan Whicher was brought back home to Maryland to be buried. A wake was held at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Rockville, where he stopped each morning before he went to work. Former neighbors, relatives, and colleagues poured into the church to pay their last respects.

President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton attended the funeral. Alan Whicher was described by his former neighbors and friends as a man who cared deeply about his community. He was a loving husband to his wife, Pamela, and he was a devoted father to his three children. One of his

last acts was to call his wife, who was about to give a speech at their new church, to offer encouragement and to wish her well.

Alan Whicher was a hero. All of the Federal employees who died in the ugly bomb blast in Oklahoma City were heroes. They were Americans who worked hard in unglamorous jobs to improve the quality of life for others. They were men and women who upheld the virtues of thrift and hard work to achieve economic independence. Their lives will not have been in vain if we can translate what happened in Oklahoma City into something that brings the whole country together.

#### A TRIBUTE TO AMANDA SHANKLE

#### HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 1995*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Amanda Shankle on being selected by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary as the winner of the Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. Amanda is a 17-year-old constituent of mine and resides in Schellsburg, PA.

Amanda has written an extraordinary essay and deserves much praise for winning such a competitive contest. Her work shows insights into her subject matter and solid command of the English language. I would ask that all of my colleagues join me in offering a warm congratulations to Amanda for her excellent work.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would also ask that Amanda's essay be reprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that all of my colleagues will have access to her fine work.

MY VISION FOR AMERICA

(By Amanda Shankle)

A vision is something seen in a dream, the vivid product of the imagination's power. My vision of America is the dream of a powerful nation, confident, united, and proud. It is a dream that exists only because of the thousands of brave men and women who fought for America's freedom, who sacrificed so that I might have the opportunity to express and to achieve my dream. Because of them I awake each day knowing that my future stands before me, alluring, exhilarating, and full of hope and promise.

But I also know that if my children are to awaken to that same dream, it is my responsibility to work to achieve it, to ensure that my vision for America becomes a reality. I must work for a country whose natural environment is not wasted by ignorance, greed or neglect, but preserved to support future generations. I must work for a nation in which people care for, and help one another, a nation that rests on a strong spiritual foundation of tolerance and faith, where all persons are treated with dignity, justice and respect.

I dream of an America whose leaders put the good of their people first, before party loyalty or personal gain; an America where no child goes to bed hungry, and no family is without a home. I dream of an America where the right to medical treatment and health care is basic; where no one has to suffer because they cannot afford the help they need.

I must work for a country where crime, drugs, and violence are the rare exception rather than the common rule, and I know that to achieve that dream I must support

measures that strengthen our economy, cherish our families, and insist on schools that challenge the minds of our children.

I remember the vision of Martin Luther King, Jr. who dreamed of a nation where people would be judged by the content of their minds and characters, rather than by their race or religion. It is a dream that I share, and one I will work hard to achieve, just as I will work hard to insure that America remains strong, for I believe that a peaceful planet earth depends now, more than ever before, on the leadership, strength and prosperity of the United States of America.

I dream of a country whose future is transformed by the innovative and inventive genius of her scientists, a transformation whose great accomplishments work to support the worth of the land and the values of her people. I dream of an America leading a united, free and prosperous planet to explore the vast reaches of outer space. What wonders await us there?

Can my vision, my dream for America come to pass? Yes. If all of us will strive to work together, if we will open our hearts to one another, and to people everywhere, if we as Americans and as citizens of planet earth share our hopes, our dreams, and our visions, the power of the human imagination and the wisdom of the heart will accomplish all of this, and much more. I see America as an American, proud of its accomplishments and committed to making it truly a haven of prosperity and dreams. For in dreams come visions and through visions come new and exciting ventures for all of us to share. Yes. That is my vision for America.

IN HONOR OF GIRO ESPOSITO, JR.

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 5, 1995, the Local Union 90 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers [IBEW] will pay tribute to its business manager, Giro "Jerry" Esposito, Jr. in honor of his retirement. I would like to join Local 90 in commemorating this exceptional individual who has dedicated an entire career to his union and his craft. Jerry is a longtime family friend, and I am honored to have this opportunity to acknowledge his 43 years of service to the IBEW.

Jerry Esposito is not only an accomplished craftsman, but also a dependable coworker and an outstanding leader. His warm personality and high level of commitment have made him well respected by his colleagues at the IBEW. As the vice president, president, and most recently, the business manager, his dedication to the Electrical Workers Local 90 has never faltered and has resulted in prosperity and growth for the union.

Unions are crucial to the well-being of American workers and they depend heavily on the vitality and solidarity of their membership. Jerry Esposito's friends and fellow electrical workers have long relied on him as an essential member of their organization. He has always been active and willing to take the lead on important issues. As a member of the Connecticut Apprenticeship Council and the IBEW's Council on Industrial Relations, Jerry has given back both to his profession and to the union that has done so much for him.

I am sure his wife, Angie, and his children—Diane, Rosemary, and Patty—share in the tre-

mendous pride that Jerry feels at this moment. I extend my heartfelt congratulations on this well-deserved tribute, and I commend Jerry Esposito for 43 years of distinguished work. I wish him many years of good health and happiness in his retirement.

### "THE FANTASTICKS" ARE FANTASTIC

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute "The Fantasticks," the longest running show in American theater history, and the longest running musical in the world. The creation of Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt, "The Fantasticks" is celebrating its 35th anniversary at the Sullivan Street Playhouse in New York's Greenwich Village today, May 3, 1995.

Approaching its 14,500th performance, "The Fantasticks" speaks to the most basic human emotions with an eloquence and style that transcends international and generational boundaries. Not only is "The Fantasticks" the longest running show in American theater history, but there have been over 8,300 productions of the musical performed in all 50 States. In addition to these college, community, and amateur productions, there have been no less than 15 national touring companies who have performed this wonderful show for tens of thousands of people throughout the country, and on dozens of U.S. military bases abroad.

"The Fantasticks" has also enjoyed extended popularity on the international stage. Each year, thousands of visitors from abroad visit the Sullivan Street Playhouse to take in a performance. "The Fantasticks" has also spawned more than 500 productions in 67 foreign countries in such places as Canada, Australia, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Israel. The original cast recording of the play's music has sold more copies around the world than any other show.

And yet, it is not the incredible statistical records accumulated by this unique piece of theater that make it so extraordinary. "The Fantasticks" is special because for 35 years it has brought a countless number of people together to share an experience that they will take with them for the rest of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute "The Fantasticks" on this, its 35th anniversary, and I hope my colleagues will join me in wishing it another 35 years of continued success.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION REGIONAL OFFICE ON UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER

#### HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill which would establish a Small Business Administration regional office for the United States-Mexico border region. The United States-Mexico border region faces unique economic and small-business circumstances

which would best be addressed by devoting the efforts of a single office to the entire region. This measure is important now because of the recent economic events in Mexico which have severely affected businesses along the United States-Mexico border.

The SBA can and does help many border businesses, but many times their administrative structure does not allow for the special needs of our region. For too long, border SBA district offices, branch offices, and point-of-duty stations have had to report to regional offices in faraway cities. This causes the special needs of the region to be overlooked. My own SBA district office in El Paso reports to the regional office in Dallas which is over 600 miles away.

Apart from the distance question there is also the matter of SBA sensitivity to border business issues. Border cities' economic ties with Mexico give our business environment a special quality. The recent Mexican peso devaluation is a good example. In the retail industry, Texas border communities that cater to Mexican shoppers were the first to feel the effects of the peso devaluation.

Texas cities such as Laredo, McAllen, and El Paso all have shopping districts that rely heavily on sales to Mexican nationals. For example, the Laredo Chamber of Commerce estimates that retail sales in the downtown area dropped 60 to 80 percent in the last week of December, 1994, and the month of January. The McAllen Chamber of Commerce estimates that retail sales dropped about 20 percent by mid-January. In El Paso, which I represent, the Economic Development Council reports that downtown retail sales fell 70 to 75 percent after the devaluation. This has quite an impact, Mr. Speaker, because the retail sector comprises 25 percent of the El Paso economy.

These are the kinds of factors that make border economies unique and would best be served by a border regional SBA office. We need SBA management structure to reflect an understanding of United States/Mexico border needs. This bill would address that.

The establishment of a border regional SBA office is long overdue and I urge my colleagues to support it.

H.R.—

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION REGIONAL OFFICE ON U.S.-MEXICO BORDER.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall establish a regional office of the Small Business Administration in a community in the United States located—

(1) not more than 10 miles from the border between the United States and Mexico; and

(2) as close as practicable to the point that is halfway between San Diego, California, and Brownsville, Texas.

(b) REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR.—The head of the office established under this section shall be the Regional Administrator of the Small Business Administration for the region of the United States located generally along the border between the United States and Mexico.

(c) FUNCTIONS.—The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall delegate to the Regional Administrator referred